

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for managing information, comprising:
a peripheral device configured to selectively capture said information;
5 and
a control device configured to receive said information from said
peripheral device, said control device responsively processing and
storing said information.
- 10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said information includes at least one of
image data and non-image data.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said peripheral device comprises at least
one of an imaging data capture device and a non-imaging data capture
15 device, said imaging data capture device including one of a scanner, a video
camera, a barcode reader, and an image sensor device, said non-imaging data
capture device including one of a computer, an environmental measurement
device, an audio device, a medical device, and a sensor device.
- 20 4. The system of claim 1 wherein said peripheral device includes at least
one of a data capture module, a power supply, and an input/output
interface.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein said control device is implemented as a
25 camera device.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein said camera device includes at least one
of a capture subsystem, a viewfinder, and a control module.
- 30 7. The system of claim 6 wherein said control module includes at least
one of a central processing unit, a memory, and one or more input/output
interfaces.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said memory includes at least one of a camera application, an operating system, a transfer manager, a processing manager, a display manager, data storage, and a storage manager.

5

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said processing manager includes one or more processing modules, said processing modules each being designed to process and manipulate a different type of said information that is downloaded from a different type of said peripheral device.

10

10. The system of claim 9 wherein at least one of said processing modules includes at least one of a demosaicing routine, a sharpening routine, a compression routine, a sizing routine, and an image processing routine.

15

11. The system of claim 7 wherein said input/output interfaces allow said camera device to communicate with at least one of a distributed computer network, a host computer, a cellular telephone, said peripheral device, an Internet network, a printer device, a wireless communications system, a removable storage media device, and a user interface.

20

12. The system of claim 7 wherein said peripheral device generates captured information by selectively capturing said information with a simplified data capture module that is economically designed, and that does not include substantial data manipulation capabilities.

25

13. The system of claim 12 wherein a transfer manager in said camera device coordinates a download procedure to download said captured information to said camera device.

30

14. The system of claim 13 wherein said transfer manager analyzes said captured information from said peripheral device to perform an identification procedure for determining an information type corresponding to said captured information, said transfer manager responsively taking an
5 appropriate action for handling said captured information depending upon said information type.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein an appropriate processing module from a processing manager is selected by said camera device, based upon said
10 information type, and is then executed by a central processing unit in said camera device to thereby generate processed information from said captured information.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said appropriate processing module is
15 downloaded from an external source through said input/output interfaces by said camera device when said appropriate processing module is not locally available on said camera device, said external source including one of a distributed computer network, a wireless communications system, and an Internet network.

20 17. The system of claim 15 wherein a storage manager in said camera device accesses and stores said processed information into an appropriate storage location that depends upon an information type of said processed information, said appropriate storage location including at least one of a local
25 memory device in said camera device, a removable storage media device, a mass storage device on a host computer, a network device, and a wireless communications device.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein at least one of said transfer manager
30 and said storage manager includes one or more sub-modules, said sub-modules each being designed to handle a different type of said information that is downloaded from a different type of said peripheral device.

19. The system of claim 1 wherein said peripheral device is implemented with a minimal configuration to thereby reduce manufacturing costs of said peripheral device.

5

20. The system of claim 19 wherein said control device is a portable electronic data-recorder device that includes sufficient computing capabilities to effectively process, store, and manage said information instead of utilizing said peripheral device to process, store, and manage said information.

10

21. A method for managing information, comprising the steps of:
capturing said information with a peripheral device;
receiving said information from said peripheral device by utilizing a
control device;
15 processing said information by selectively utilizing said control device;
and
storing said information by utilizing said control device.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said information includes at least one
20 of image data and non-image data.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said peripheral device comprises at least one of an imaging data capture device and a non-imaging data capture device, said imaging data capture device including one of a scanner, a video
25 camera, a barcode reader, and an image sensor device, said non-imaging data capture device including one of a computer, an environmental measurement device, an audio device, a medical device, and a sensor device.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein said peripheral device includes at least
30 one of a data capture module, a power supply, and an input/output interface.

25. The method of claim 21 wherein said control device is implemented as a camera device.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said camera device includes at least one of a capture subsystem, a viewfinder, and a control module.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said control module includes at least one of a central processing unit, a memory, and one or more input/output interfaces.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein said memory includes at least one of a camera application, an operating system, a transfer manager, a processing manager, a display manager, data storage, and a storage manager.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said processing manager includes one or more processing modules, said processing modules each being designed to process and manipulate a different type of said information that is downloaded from a different type of said peripheral device.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein at least one of said processing modules includes at least one of a demosaicing routine, a sharpening routine, a compression routine, a sizing routine, and an image processing routine.

31. The method of claim 27 wherein said input/output interfaces allow said camera device to communicate with at least one of a distributed computer network, a host computer, a cellular telephone, said peripheral device, an Internet network, a printer device, a wireless communications system, a removable storage media device, and a user interface.

32. The method of claim 27 wherein said peripheral device generates captured information by selectively capturing said information with a simplified data capture module that is economically designed, and that does not include substantial data manipulation capabilities.

5

33. The method of claim 32 wherein a transfer manager in said camera device coordinates a download procedure to download said captured information to said camera device.

10 34. The method of claim 33 wherein said transfer manager analyzes said captured information from said peripheral device to perform an identification procedure for determining an information type corresponding to said captured information, said transfer manager responsively taking an appropriate action for handling said captured information depending upon
15 said information type.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein an appropriate processing module from a processing manager is selected by said camera device, based upon said information type, and is then executed by a central processing unit in
20 said camera device to thereby generate processed information from said captured information.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein said appropriate processing module is downloaded from an external source through said input/output interfaces by
25 said camera device when said appropriate processing module is not locally available on said camera device, said external source including one of a distributed computer network, a wireless communications system, said peripheral device, and an Internet network.

30

37. The method of claim 35 wherein a storage manager in said camera device accesses and stores said processed information into an appropriate storage location that depends upon an information type of said processed information, said appropriate storage location including at least one of a local memory device in said camera device, a removable storage media device, a mass storage device on a host computer, a network device, and a wireless communications device.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein at least one of said transfer manager and said storage manager includes one or more sub-modules, said sub-modules each being designed to handle a different type of said information that is downloaded from a different type of said peripheral device.

39. The method of claim 21 wherein said peripheral device is implemented with a minimal configuration to thereby reduce manufacturing costs of said peripheral device.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein said control device is a portable electronic data-recorder device that includes sufficient computing capabilities to effectively process, store, and manage said information instead of utilizing said peripheral device to process, store, and manage said information.

41. The method of claim 21 wherein a capture subsystem initially receives said information from said peripheral device through a data input that provides said information to one or more downstream data handling modules from at least one of said capture subsystem and said control device, said information including at least one of analog information and digital information.

42. A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for managing electronic information by performing the steps of:

capturing said information with a peripheral device;

receiving said information from said peripheral device by utilizing a

5 control device;

processing said information by selectively utilizing said control device;

and

storing said information by utilizing said control device.

10 43. A system for managing information, comprising:

means for capturing said information;

means for accessing said information from said means for capturing;

means for processing said information; and

means for storing said information.

15